

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 IGA-02 EUR-12 ACDA-07

SAJ-01 EB-07 /080 W

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O R 280950Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2541

INFO COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14515

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: MIG 25

1. IN SEPTEMBER 28 MEETING WITH EMBOFF, FONOFF SECURITY DIVISION CHIEF SATO EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO PROSPECT FOR EXTENSION OF CURRENT USFJ OVERT ACCESS TO MIG BEYOND OCTOBER 3 DEADLINE. HE SAID PRIME MINISTER HAD RELUCTANTLY APPROVED EXTENSION BUT WAS ANXIOUS TO CONCLUDE MIG EXAMINATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SATO SAID, HOWEVER, THAT AFTER OCTOBER 3. JSDF COULD PROVIDE COMPONENTS FOR USFJ EXAMINATION ELSEWHERE ON COVERT BASIS AND THAT JSDF MIGHT AT SOME LATER STAGE REQUEST USFJ OVERT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PREPARE MIG FOR RETURN TO SOVIETS. JDA VICE MINISTER MARUYAMA CONFIRMED THESE POINTS IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH DCM AND POL/C.

2. DURING INTERPELLATIONS SEPTEMBER 27, MIKI INFORMED DIET OF GOJ INTENT TO RETURN MIG AFTER JSDF EXAMINATION COMPLETED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NORMAL INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE.

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TICE AND NEED TO PRESERVE BASICALLY FRIENDLY RELATIONS

WITH SOVIETS. MIKI EMPHASIZED THAT JSDF CONDUCTING INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION, WITH US ROLE LIMITED TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

3. EDITORIALS IN MAJOR DAILIES, INCLUDING, ASAHI, YOMIURI AND MAINICHI HAVE BEGUN TO CALL FOR PROMPT RETURN OF MIG TO SOVIETS. WHILE COMPLAINING ABOUT SOVIET FAILURE TO APOLOGIZE FOR MIG INTRUSION, EDITORIALS HAVE EMPHASIZED MIG AFFAIR MUST NOT DAMAGE RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS AND HAVE EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM ABOUT GOJ CLAIM TO BE CONDUCTING INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION. JDA SOURCE CONFIRMED SWING IN MEDIA POSITION AND EXPRESSED OPINION THAT MOST JAPANESE FELT THE GOJ HAD RETAINED THE PLANE LONG ENOUGH AND THAT "THERE WAS NOT NEED TO RUB IT IN" TO SOVIETS.

4. CITING GOVERNMENT SOURCES, YOMIURI REPORTED GOJ DECISION TO TERMINATE MIG INSPECTION ON OCTOBER 5. YOMIURI SAID FONMIN WOULD INFORM GROMYKO IN NEW YORK OF GOJ READINESS TO RETURN MIG IF REQUESTED AND TO BEGIN ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS RETURN.

5. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT SOVIET POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON FONOFF TO REITERATE POINTS MADE IN TWO EARLIER PORTESTS BY AMBASSADOR POLYANSKI. SEPARATELY, ASAHI QUOTED ASSERTION BY TOKYO SOVIET SOURCE THAT MIG AFFAIR COULD AFFECT JAPAN-SOVIET ECONOMIC SOOPERATION. ONLY RETALIATION SEEN SO FAR IS CANCELLATION OF USSR VISIT BY GO (JAPANESE CHESS) TEAM.  
HODGSON

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